

From Oliver Johnsons.

(Incomplete.)

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128 East Twelfth St.,  
New York, 10 May, 1868.

My Dear Garrison,

I learn from Wendell  
that you have given up all hope of  
being able to go to the Longwood meet-  
ing. I need not say how deeply I am  
disappointed; but I fully appreciate the  
reasons which constrain you not to  
leave home almost at the moment  
when you expect the arrival of your  
children from over the sea, and  
therefore I cannot complain. Indeed I  
presume it is all for the best. But  
I did want you so much this year!

Now, my dear Garrison, as  
you cannot be with us in person, will  
you pardon me for asking you to  
help me in two particulars? I am  
afraid you will think me a bore,  
but as I shall have to work very



hard up to the time for going to the meeting, and it is wholly uncertain what help I shall have after getting there, when ~~the~~ excitement will unfit me for mental labor, I will venture so far to impose upon your good nature as to ask you to write two testimonies, viz: 1. on Peace, to save <sup>and the meeting</sup> me from the loose rhetoric of Alfred Love. You know how to put the issue in "a form of sound words," so as not to involve needless discussion upon collateral questions, leading to confusion. The moment does not seem to me the most favorable for a calm consideration of the subject; but, as it must come up, in some form, I hope you will write for me what the meeting may well adopt.

My second request—more earnest even than the first—is, that you will write a testimony on the



"State of the Country," etc., taking up the subject at the point where we left it last year, giving a clear statement of the progress made since that period, and pointing out the work still needing to be done in order to heal the wounds of the war and make the country completely free, prosperous and safe. That you may see what we said and did on this and other subjects last year, I enclose the testimonies then adopted. There was an attempt on the part of Purvis, E. M. Davis and others to mar the testimony on Reconstruction by amendments embodying the ideas and spirit of Phillips and his party. It failed, but may be renewed this year. What I want is to have the subject set in such a light as to anticipate and make unwelcome all



their cavils. With such a testimony as  
you can write, I can carry the  
meeting with a sweep. While we should  
<sup>speak</sup> gratefully and exultingly of what has  
been achieved, we must also look  
at the darker side of the picture, not  
unhopefully, to be sure, but without  
~~any~~ attempt to conceal the dangers  
that still menace the cause of  
freedom.

My Dear Garrison, forgive me  
for seeking to lay this burden upon you;  
~~that~~ I speak not from any personal interest  
or motive, but in behalf of the great  
cause of truth and righteousness,  
which you live to serve. Two hours  
would probably be all the time required  
for the task, and I hope you will  
not find it either impossible or  
irksome to give so much to the good  
cause, at my solicitation. And when